

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 PRS-01 PA-02 SS-15 SSO-00
NSC-05 INR-07 INRE-00 DHA-02 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3716

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 03175

FOR VANCE, S/PRS, PA

DEPT PASS NSC FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

USIA FOR J. THURBER IOP/G

WHITE HOUSE FOR MR PARNELL & MR SCHECTER

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ANZUS PRESS CONFERENCE MEDIA REACTION

1. NEW ZEALAND'S TWO TELEVISION CHANNELS, RADIO NEW ZEALAND DEALT BRIEFLY WITH ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING ON NATIONAL NEWS, JULY 28 ALL USING DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S COMMENTS ON THE UNITED STATES ATTITUDE ON POSSIBLE TRADING ASSISTANCE FOR NEW ZEALAND. TELEVISION ONE'S POLITICAL COMMENTATOR ADDED NEW ZEALAND NOW HAD FAR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND WAS HAPPY WITH U.S. ASSURANCES ON SECURITY.
 2. RADIO NEW ZEALAND'S NATIONAL NEWS, JULY 29, DEALT WITH COMMENTS ON ANTARCTICA AND THEN ON HIGHLY RATED MORNING REPORT PROGRAM USED FURTHER CHRISTOPHER COMMENTS ON THE UNITED STATES ASSISTING NEW ZEALAND IN ITS PRESENT ECONOMIC AND TRADING SITUATION. ITS POLITICAL COMMENTATOR ADDED THAT COMMUNIQUE SECTION DEALING WITH ECONOMIC FACTOR HAD BEEN INCLUDED "AFTER DISCREET PRESSURE FROM N.Z." AND THAT "UNITED STATES OFFICIALS WERE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO DO THIS." HE SAID AMERICA'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST NEW ZEALAND COULD HAVE BEEN RESULT OF PRESENT TRADING
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DIFFICULTIES WITH THE EEC AND THAT IT WAS IRONIC THAT WHILE FOREIGN MINISTER TALBOYS WAS HAVING TROUBLE WITH NEGOTIATIONS FOR CONTINUING ACCESS TO THE EEC MARKETS A NEW MARKET COULD BE OPENING UP WITHOUT HIS HAVING TRIED TOO HARD.

3. THE CAPITAL'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER, EVENING POST JULY 29 RAN THE ANZUS COMMUNIQUE UNDER THREE COLUMN HEADING "EMPH-

ASIS ON ECONOMIC FUTURE IN COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE" WHILE ON ITS BACKPAGE, ITS POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT COVERING THE FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE, UNDER THE HEADING "ANZUS UMBRELLA MAY BE EXTENDED TO ISLANDS", USED SOLELY CHRISTOPHER COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE ANZUS ENLARGEMENT AND ECONOMIC HEALTH OF ANZUS COUNTRIES. FROM CHRISTOPHER'S PRESS CONFERENCE, THE "POST'S" POLITICAL REPORTER TOOK COMMENTS ON SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN TO LEAD PAGE THREE ARTICLE, UNDER THE FOUR COLUMN HEADING "NO 'SABRE RATTLING' ON RUSSIANS IN PACIFIC." HE ALSO USED COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC SITUATION AND U.S. COMMITMENT TO SECURITY IN THIS REGION.

4. WELLINGTON'S MORNING PAPER, THE "DOMINION", JULY 29, LED ITS SECOND NEWS PAGE WITH A SIX COLUMN POLITICAL REPORTER'S ARTICLE UNDER THE HEADING "ANZUS TALKS RAISE MEATY ISSUE OF SECURITY IN TRADE." DEALING WITH THE FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE, THIS DREW EXTENSIVELY FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S REMARKS WHICH MADE UP THE BULK OF THE ARTICLE.

5. "THE PRESS" CHRISTCHURCH, JULY 29, RAN A THREE-COLUMN NEW ZEALAND PRESS ASSOCIATION NATIONALLY DISTRIBUTED PRESS CONFERENCE STORY UNDER THE HEADING "ANZUS ADOPTS ECONOMIC STANCE."

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6. THE "NEW ZEALAND HERALD" THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST PAPER, USED A STAFF REPORTER ARTICLE, UNDER A FOUR COLUMN HEADING "ANZUS PARTNERS SUPPORT ACCESS FOR NZ PRODUCE." THIS DREW HEAVILY ON CHRISTOPHER COMMENTS WHICH TOOK UP 80 PER CENT OF THE ARTICLE.

7. THE "HERALD" ALSO COMMENTED EDITORIALY, SAYING, UNDER "A SOUND ANZUS PARTNER" HEADING THAT THE STATEMENT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ON THE COMMITMENT OF HIS COUNTRY TO THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND CAME AS A CONSIDERABLE REASSURANCE WHICH DISPELLED EARLIER MISAPPREHENSIONS ABOUT UNITED STATES ATTITUDES TO PLACES AND COMMITMENTS SINCE THE ELECTION OF MR CARTER AS PRESIDENT.

8. THE ANZUS PACT "REMAINS A FUNDAMENTAL INGREDIENT OF NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN POLICY, AND THE PRESENT NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT REGARDS IT AS A BULWARK OF OUR SECURITY.

9. "THE JUNIOR PARTNERS THIS WEEK ARE PROBABLY SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF CURRENT U.S. VIEWS ...THE EMERGING STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF ANTARCTICA IS ONE OF THEM; THE

SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC
IS ANOTHER.

10 "AS SOVIET INFLUENCE SPREADS THROUGH THE TINY
ISLAND NATIONS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, IT IS ALSO
APPROPRIATE THAT MR TALBOYS SHOULD EMPHASISE NEW ZEALAND'S
DIFFICULTIES IN DOING MORE TO AID ISLAND STATES WHEN WE
OURSELVES ARE SUFFERING ECONOMIC ADVERSITY.

11 "SECURITY IS NOT JUST A MILITARY MATTER; IT IS NO
LESS AN ECONOMIC MATTER. IF NEW ZEALAND IS TO BE OF

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MUCH USE AT ALL IN THE ANZUS PARTNERSHIP, IT CAN ONLY
BE BECAUSE HER ECONOMY IS SOUND. AND, ATPRESENT,
ECONOMIC STRENGTH CAN COME ONLY FROM AN ABILITY TO SELL
TO OTHER NATIONS." ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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